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DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS  
RICHMOND, VA

August 10, 2004

Timothy Lough  
Special Projects Engineer  
Division of Energy Regulation  
P. O. Box 1197  
Richmond, Va 23218

Dear Mr. Lough:

This letter is in response to an article that was in the Lynchburg News & Advance today regarding the state looking at placing power lines underground.

We are very strongly in favor of all electric lines being placed underground. This includes existing lines as well as new power lines that are installed in the future. We realize that there will be some expense involved but it will pay for itself in the long run. Power outages would certainly decrease and replacing power outages is a major expense in this area, especially during the winter and during severe storms. There would not be trees falling on lines creating power outages and also creating fires. This area has a lot of power outages even when the weather is good and it is very frustrating to have to pay for something as valuable as electricity and not have it be dependable. Underground power lines would certainly increase the dependability. Also there would be no power poles to ruin the scenic view in this area and also the poles would not be there for cars to run into. Just 10 days ago a car crashed into the power pole in front of my office at 7:45 a.m and cut the pole in half. Of course the power had to be cut off and was off for 8 hours which meant a business had to close for the entire day because of no power. This is a good example of why lines need to be underground. Within a 25 mile radius of my neighborhood the power goes off for 30 seconds at least once a week and most of the time 2 or 3 times a week. Do you know how much damage that does to heat pumps, etc. not to mention that it screws up digital timers that I have set for appliances to come on during the day while we are away. More than once we have thrown out food because the power went off for 30 seconds knocking out the digital timer and the appliance did not come on and the food was ruined. We and most of our neighbors have said on more than one occasion we would be willing to pay a little more for the electricity if they would put the lines underground so that at least we could count on it being there. During the winter especially it is hard to survive without electricity and most people cannot afford to go to a motel to stay for several days and nights. Most of the people in this area get their water from private wells which means when the power goes out we have no water. This is very unhealthy.

These are just a few of the reasons why all power lines need to be underground and we strongly encourage that steps be taken to have this done in the very near future.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
*Clyde Metcalf - Cynthia Metcalf*  
Clyde and Cynthia Metcalf  
*1765 Browns Mill Rd.*  
*Rustburg, Va. 24588*